2. Intensive cultivation programme for 25000 hectare.

3. Replanting programme for 30000 hec.

4. Water augmentation programme for 61000 hec.

5. Encouraging setting up of 750 Nos. of pulping units under quality improvement programme.

In order to promote exports, the coffee marketing system has been further liberalised by allowing 100 per cent Free Sale Quota to the small growers having holding size below 10 hec. and upto 70 per cent to other growers under which coffee producers could sell their produce both in domestic as well as in export markets.

Different prices of sugarcane

*746. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether 22 different prices of sugarcane are prevailing for sugarcane growers in the country at present;

(b) whether Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices had recommended for a uniform sugarcane price for the entire country;

(c) whether the Union Government had accepted the recommendations of the Bureau;

(d) if so, the present position in this matter; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) The Statutory Minimum Price of Sugarcane (SMP) is uniform throughout the country, linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent. it is fixed by the Central Government every year under the provisions of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. However, various systems are being adopted by the State Governments in announcing State Advised Prices (SAP) of sugarcane and thus multiplicity of prices in respect of State Advised Prices of sugarcane does exist.

(b) to (e) Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices (BICP) had observed in 1983 that basically the objective should be to reduce the number of zones so that eventually, the country can become one zone for the purpose of sugar & sugarcane pricing. Thereafter, BICP has not made any further recommendation for uniform cane price in the recent past. The Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane is now announced by the Central Government keeping in view the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The matter regarding multiplicity in State Advised Cane Prices was considered in the Conference of Sugar Ministers of all sugar producing States and UTs held on 5.2.94 in which after delibertions, a Committee of Ministers of five State Governments namely Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra was constituted by the Central Government to recommend the pricing policy for State Advised Prices of sugarcane. The Committee submitted its report on 3.4.9. advising, interalia, constitution of a National Pricing Board for the purpose. The matter was again considered in another Conference of the Sugar Ministers of all the Sugar producing States/UTs held on 6.5.95. Though a majority of the States/UTs supported the formation of a National pricing Board, there was difference of opinion about its terms of reference. The Government has decided to seek detailed suggestions/proposals from the State Governments/UTs in this regard so that a final view can be taken.